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BRIEFING BY MR HAYDEN WITH AUSTRALIAN JOURNALISTS
3 P.M. 7 SEPTEMBER 9184 AT RITZ HOTEL, LISBON

Q. How long has the Australian Labor Government been referring to itself as a party principal?

Mr Hayden Oh, about two hours ago. And I didn't say party principal so much as a principal party/in probably the sense that we have a concern about the matter and no more than that. It shouldn't be exaggerated - I'm glad you asked that in case you get carried away. The fact that there has been comment in Australia and debate and this has led to sometimes differences between us and Indonesia is an indication that we have a principal interest in it, I suppose is the best way of putting it. We have a principal interest in it - or an interest of principal, let's get the language right.

Q. Spelt pal rather than ple ?

Mr Hayden ~~Right~~ YES. So I'm glad you cleared that up, it's probably wrecked a few of the more feverish statements (?)

Q. You did say it yesterday as well as today.

Mr Hayden Yes, but it doesn't matter what I said, I've cleared up exactly what it means, so we won't get carried away with that. Quite obviously it's a matter of major interest to us to see ~~it~~ the thing cleared up satisfactorily and one says no more than that.

Q. How far are your discussions and your interests based on information about what is actually happening in the territory. It seems to me that the

affair tends to be discussed in the abstract diplomatic way. To my knowledge there's a lot of fighting going on there at the moment.

Mr Hayden To our knowledge and I am convinced our information is as reliable as anyone is getting and more reliable than most , I'm convinced it's quite accurate in most respects, and according to that ifnromation I must say a lot of the stuff I see printed in Australia is quite eronously based. It may be based on good intentions, it may come from people who have a rather emotional concern about the issue or commitment, but it doesn't mean it's right.

Q. Will you expand on that?

Mr Hayden No, not at all. You don't have to be smart to work out that we have a range of very reliable sources, perhaps you can work out what some of them might be.

Q. Officially, what is the situation. Is there heavy fighting in .....?

Mr Hayden Officially the situation is that the Fretilin are in a beleagured position . They are badly broken up and bottled up. They are reduced to pillaging East Timorese villages . The villagers are reacting to this with hostility . The Fretilin are now in a position where if they had hearts and minds support from any significant number of East Timorese this has been very badly damaged and markedly reduced. Our information is that maybe 300 maybe 400 Fretilin are actually combatants but there are so few pieces of military equipment between them that

there are not enough guns for instance to have each of them armed. There would be as many as 2,000 people associated with them but this would be women and children and other dependants. The fact that the Papal Representative in East Timor recently made the statement - do you know his exact description - (voice) monsignor .... pointed out that Fretilin are reduced to this, perhaps I'm giving much more detail and starkness about it. This is confirmation of what we've been saying long before he made his public statement. The problem for the Indonesian forces, of course is that a small number of people in engaged in guerrilla insurrectionary tactics in jungle country which is hard to penetrate and the ratios of conventional forces to such forces has to be enormously high if they wanted to completely eliminate them. It would seem to us that the decision they've taken is that they would prefer to bottle up and and contract the area in which these people can operate and to separate them into small units as a more efficient use of their forces. In this it seems that they're being quite successful.

Q. Is there any evidence of bombing going on by the Indonesian air force?

Mr Hayden There has been in the past. I couldn't tell you what the latest situation is. The numbers of Indonesian forces in East Timor are probably twelve probably fourteen thousand at an absolute maximum. But

a very large number of those as is traditional in Indonesian military personnel are engaged in actual construction and development work. They are not armed combatants.

Q. How many?

Mr Hayden Twelve, maybe fourteen, probably about twelve..

Q. What sort of percentage are engaged in construction?

Mr Hayden Oh, I wouldn't know, we don't have hard figures on that - a fairly high number. As is traditional with the military forces in Indonesia a lot of people are in uniform but they are not all engaged in active military operations or training or activity. They are engaged, a lot of them, in construction work, development work. In East Timor the levels of expenditure on things like better housing, education, health services, nutrition, communications is better than it's ever been , and it's certainly better than it was in colonial days and per capita is better than any other region in Indonesia.

Q. According to Timorese refugees who've just arrived here, the Indonesian Army is conscripting the Timorese civil population to assist in the fighting including the school children to whom they are distributing arms. If in fact the Indonesian military has been spare on the civil consturction people to how does that tally with ..... I would be prepared to

Mr Hayden Well I don't know, I don't think I would swear that this is correct my life away at this point . It may be but I don't have any evidence of it. What we do have evidence of is that

the "Pale", for the want of a better dexcription, of secure living areas the Indonesians are able to establish continues to expand. Our Ambassador recently in East Timor was able to report that villages which had been vacant for a considerable time because ~~security~~ of insecurity in the area now occupied by East Timorese villagers and the conclusion he drew is that the Indonesians have established a secure situation in that region which in turn suggests that Fretilin have been pushed back. I think the important thing is not to conclude the Fretilin represent the East Timorese people, and never have. They've represented some people amongst the East Timorese and I would be ~~suggested~~ surprised that the Portuguese would suggest to you that Fretilin were the legitimate representatives of the East Timorese people.

Q. (Inaudible) Timorese outside East Timor and probably not inside East Timor (inaudible)

Mr Hayden Well, that's a different question to the one I ~~sut~~ just made. We've made different points, have't we. Now in respect of the points I just don't know and I don't think anyone else does. I think a lot of conclusions are drawn. I think it must be concluded that the Indonesians have made substantial advances nonetheless in East Timor and probably are enjoying more support than they've had in the past from the East Timorese people. (Inaudible)

I don't think anyone is able to do that outside of the

area.

Q. So the Indonesians are now in effect waging an economic war against the people of East Timor in that ....

Mr Hayden No, they are not waging an economic war at all. It is not an economic war. And I would never suggest that - what they are doing is improving economically the conditions of the people of East Timor.

Q. Economic persuasion rather military persuasion?

Mr Hayden Well I wouldn't describe it that way. All I'd say is that their economic and social progress of East Timor has been most notable in the past few years as a result of Indonesian policies. I'm not saying they're not without blemish, not at all, I'm not prepared to go into that publicly, but I think we should get that into balance and perspective. Any other questions?

Q. Just on the session this morning. Would it be correct to (inaudible) various what you were saying (inaudible) a little variance in what you were saying about the Portuguese position after this= morning's meeting as against last night

Mr Hayden In what way?

Q. You suggested you are encouraged by what they were saying this morning whereas (inaudible) a continued stalemate between Portugal and ...

Mr Hayden No I wouldn't have thought that at all. I'll have a look at the text from the press conference. I just don't know.

Q. I'm still trying to .....

Mr HaYDEN Well I suggest you're on the wrong track with the greatest respect . And the President has said to me that there's no differencde between the wavelength he's on and that of the government. I reported this morning after speaking to the governemnt that I was somewhat encouraged so there you are.

Q. That the evolution of the Portuguese position . . .

Mr Hayden Yes. Where does it take us I don't know we can't resolve that after one round of meetings which haven't been concluded anyway. And certainly I can't talk to you I'm sorry but I'm sure you can appreciate that as much as you'd like me to tell you more. I can't tell you the details of what we discussed privately.

Q. Is there anything that you could tell us unattributively or off the record which you can't tell us.

Mr Hayden Only at great risk I've found from experience.

Q. Dr MOCHTAR MADE IT CLEAR HE DOES NOT APPRECIATE Australia's interest.

Mr Hayden No, If I were as imprecise as that as a politician you would carve me up as a journalist, but I'm much too tender hearted to do that to a journalist. All I'll say is that he didn't accept Australia in the role as a mediator and that's a role I don't accept either. We've never ever suggested it and I think from the look of text of what I've seen of what he said he probably put that question - how does he accept Australia as a mediator - I don't know. But we are not a mediator - we have a principal interest in all of this for fairly obvvious reasons and that therefore we are trying to sort out with any move that can take place. We have resolutions from our Federal Congress we have a division in our community over the issue, we

have our media regularly expressing their point of view on this and the sum of all this is that Indonesia often makes its opinions felt or expresses its opinion about what's taking place in Australia on this matter. Therefore it is not an issue we can neglect. We have to attend to it. Not as a mediator.

Q. Are you not, in effect, On this trip, then not acting as a mediator, even as a go-between.

Mr Hayden Not even as a go-between. We are looking after our self-intereest. Australia has a national interest. We are not a meddler from outside in this interest. we have a major national interest. We are trying to see this issue resolved satisfactorily, which means to the satisfaction of all parties principal concerned about it and that's all we re doing and other people are doing the same sort of thing. we are not a mediator and we are not a message carrier, not a go-between.

Q. And does Portugal appreciate that?in these talks?

Mr Hayden I think that our talks this morning represented a substantial development of our mutual interest and were extremely encouraging.

Q. Would you consider joining negotiations with Porgtugal and Indonesia/as an obvserver?if negotiations . . . .

Mr Hayden Well, they're not negotiating at the moment are they?

Q. They say they are.

Mr HaYDEN I think they've said publicly that they aren't. I think what's been said by the Secretary General of the UN is that there's been contact.

Q. Contacts which have been continuing.

Mr Hayden It doesn't necessarily mean that they've been direct does it. I just don't know you'll have to talk to the Portuguese if you want to know what they're doing or what their views are. I only talk for Australia. And doing that I get myself into enough trouble from time to time if you remember in Geneva.

(next day we changes this

Q. Can you tell what it is that has encouraged you?

Mr. Hayden. The discussions I had with the Portuguese

Q. Can you say whether you raised with the Portuguese the possibility of taking part in some sort of international mission to ...?

Mr Hayden We certainly didn't discuss any international mission because that's altogether too premature for anyone speculating on that in these sorts of discussions. We discussed the situation now and attitudes which are developing.

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